

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /143 W

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P R 191855Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 681

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSUL CALI

UNCLAS MEDELLIN 253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CO

SUBJ: FOURTH BRIGADE CONFIRMS KILLING OF ELN GUERRILLA LEADERS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: BOGOTA 8628, MEDELLIN 248

1. THE COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE COL. ALVARO RIVEROS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE NO. 41 OCTOBER 18 ANNOUNCING THAT ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY UNITS UNDER HIS COMMAND KILLED BROTHERS MANUEL VASQUEZ CASTANO (ALIAS JERONIMO) AND ANTONIO VASQUEZ CASTANO (ALIAS EMILIANO).

2. THE BODIES OF THE TWO ELN CIEFTAINS WERE BROUGHT TO BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS IN MEDELLIN AND EXHIBITED TO THE PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT AS TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SLAIN GUERRILLAS. BRIGADE OFFICIALS TOLD THE PRESS THE VASQUEZ WERE ENGAGED BY TROPPS IN A FIREFIGHT AT 2:30 IN THE AFTERNOON NEAR THE RIO PORCE (NOTE: POSSIBLE RIO NECHI) NEAR ANORI, ANTIOQUIA. AFTER REFUSING TO SURRENDER, THE VASQUEZ WERE KILLED ABOUT 3:30. ALSO KILLED IN THE FIGHT WAS ANTONIO'S GIRL FRIEND KNOWN AS N.N. LUCIA.

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3. THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIOQUIA HAD OFFERED A ONE MILLION PESO REWARD (APPROX. U.S. \$41,000) FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CAPTURE OF EACH VASQUEZ, AND CIVILIAN INFORMANTS WERE APPARENTLY CRUCIAL IN THE BRIGADE'S LOCATING AND SURROUNDING THE VASQUEZ GROUP. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THE BRIGADE STEADILY TIGHTENED ITS GRIP, CAPTURING OR KILLING MORE THAN FORTY ALLEGED GUERRILLAS SINCE MID-SEPTEMBER, UNTIL THE VASQUEZ WERE REDUCED TO A HANDFUL OF SUPPORTERS AND FINALLY, NONE. COLONEL RIVERSOS ANNOUNCED THAT THE TWO MILLION PESO REWARD FOR THE TWO VASQUEZ WILL BE DIVIDED UP AMONG CIVILIAN INFORMANTS AND SOLDIERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ACTION.

5. BRIGADE OFFICIALS DISCOUNTED RUMORS THAT FABIO VASQUEZ, OLDER BROTHER AND REPORTEDLY LEADER MAXIMO OF ELN FORCES IN THE MID-MAGDALENA WAS INVOLVED IN THE FIREFIGHT. OFFICIALS BELIEVE FABIO REMAINS ACTIVE ELSEWHERE IN COLOMBIA. ALSO STILL AT LARGE AND BELIEVED TO BE OPERATING IN THE MID-MAGDALENA ARE ELN GROUPS HEADED BY RICARDO LARA PARADA AND SPANISH PRIEST DOMINGO LAIN.

6. WITH THE SUCCESSFUL TERMINATION OF QUOTE OPERATION ANORI END QUOTE THE FOURTH BRIGADE UNDER ITS ENERGETIC COMMANDER IS EXPECTED TO TURN ITS ATTENTION TO OTHER GUERRILLA AND BANDIT GROUPS OPERATING IN THE MID-MAGDALENA.
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